BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

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New developments in the campaign for a lessening of tension

The information contained in the following pages shows that the present campaign for a lessening of international tension is meeting with increasing support in all countries.

In Europe, during recent weeks, the movement against the ratification and operation of the Bonn and Paris Agreements has grown despite all the pressure being brought to bear. The latest attempts to encroach upon the sovereignty of the countries of Latin America are meeting with increasing opposition, which was even reflected in the Caracas Conference.

Everywhere, both the man in the street and the most distinguished public figures are expressing their support for, and taking steps to achieve, an easing of tension. Just recently, Pandit Nehru made an appeal for a final settlement of the Korean problem, proposed the immediate opening of negotiations in Viet-Nam and urged agreement between the Great Powers on the principal issues which are dividing the world.

Actions of this kind are becoming more and more frequent in the most responsible political quarters and provide fresh opportunities for developing the present campaign for a genuine *détente*.

There is growing interest in the problem of European security. The Paris Conference, on March 20th and 21st, of Parliamentary and other public figures from the countries affected by the EDC, is typical. This Conference brought together responsible politicians of very diverse opinions. They expressed the reasons for their common opposition to EDC and their desire to reach a peaceful solution of the German problem in the interests of real security.

The drama of the Japanese fishermen who were gravely affected by the dreadful Bikini atomic explosion, was a tragic reminder of the renewed threats to use these weapons of mass destruction which are being continually "improved." Every incident of this kind provides yet another reason why the peoples should be on the alert. They stimulate their determination to see the Great Powers reach agreement in the proposed talks to examine the possibility of a substantial reduction of arms.

The peoples are taking a keen interest in the forthcoming Geneva Conference on Far Eastern problems in which, this time, the People's Republic of China will participate. The indefatigable work of the Peace Movement for negotiations and agreement between the Five Great Powers who bear the responsibility for settling international differences, has been fully justified by the convocation of this Conference, even before its proceedings actually begin.

But the forces of aggression have not laid down their arms; indeed, they are multiplying their intrigues. With only a few weeks to go before the Geneva Conference, steps are being taken to internationalise the war in Viet-Nam. Facts such as these show how necessary it is to make every effort to ensure that this Conference achieves positive results.

For all these reasons the Peace Movement must face up to its great responsibilities. Five years after its inception, the Peace Movement has become a powerful force. However, its influence is not measured merely by the wide reception accorded its ideas, but by its capacity to bring about a coalition of all those forces which are today working for the same peaceful objectives.

The facts show that possibilities do exist for just such a coalition and that in many countries this is being realised. They also show that, internationally, the same possibilities exist and are coming to light which will enable the forces working for an easing of tension to come together.

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What the Press is saying....

On March 18th, at Geneva, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECA) unanimously adopted a resolution jointly submitted by the British and Soviet delegations recommending the development of East-West trade inside Europe. This gives an official stamp to the widely expressed demand for a restoration of normal trade relations between all nations—a demand borne out by the following excerpts from the world Press. "The development of trade relations," said M. Edgar Faure, French Minister of Finance, at the Geneva meeting, "is inseparable from Peace."

Official encouragement for British trade with Eastern Europe is reflected in the relaxations announced last week by the Export Credits Guarantee Department... Exports to Eastern Europe may increase somewhat if the United States can agree to a relaxation of the existing controls on shipments of "strategic" goods.

THE ECONOMIST (Britain)

It might be said that the ice has been broken between Western and Eastern Europe as far as economic co-operation is concerned.

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG (Switzerland)

The three-years-old Battle Act, which regulates the restrictions on trade with the Communist world, is now seriously shaken. The Americans themselves seem to recognise that the unconditional defence of this complex and arbitrary document is difficult since the Russians, treating it with contempt, are delivering so-called "strategic" goods to the West... The atmosphere bodes well for the next East-West trade conference, which opens in Geneva on April 20th.

LE MONDE (France)

Western Germany makes no secret of the fact that trade with the East would be of essential importance to her. Her principal demand is to be given the opportunity of freely competing in the world markets...

The question as to whether Moscow is really interested in long-term trade relations, or whether they form simply a part of a Soviet plan, is not a vital one and this would not be the first time that commerce has played a peaceful role in the field of politics.

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE (Germany)

We are very interested in trade. Poland uses Egyptian cotton in her textile industry and Egypt will benefit from the biggest iron works in Europe which are being constructed in Poland. All trade so far between Egypt and Poland has, in short, been to Egypt's advantage.

AL GUMHURIYA (Egypt)

We cannot see any reason why Brazil should not resume trade relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, especially today when every legitimate opportunity must be seized for expanding our share of the world market.

FOLHA DA MANHÃ—Excerpt from an article by the President of the Chamber of Commerce (Brazil)

The recent beginnings of a relaxation of tension have, in turn, created more favourable opportunities for expanding trade relations between the nations, for developing fruitful commercial co-operation between all countries irrespective of their social or economic structure...

There is not the slightest doubt that the vital interests of all peoples necessitate the abrogation of discriminatory measures in international trade, and the growth of healthy economic co-operation. Such co-operation will also contribute to the continuation of the international détente.

IZVESTIA (USSR)

The Bolivian people... by so doing (demanding markets for Bolivian tin), *have affirmed the necessity of establishing trade relations with all countries who have wanted and still want to negotiate with Bolivia on the basis of equality and mutual respect.*

EL PUEBLO (Bolivia)

The new agreements signed between the Lebanon, on the one hand, and Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, on the other, which are the best agreements the Lebanon has ever signed, have drawn the attention of economic, commercial and official circles to a very important question—that of the discriminatory terms of agreements signed with other countries and which do not respect Lebanese interests.

AL HADAF (The Lebanon)

Brazil's political relations with the United States cannot provide a reason for a lack of direct trade relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies...

The absence of connections with the Soviet Union is contrary to our own interests.

BULLETIN OF THE BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT (Brazil)

This method (the payment of purchases with exports) *has been successfully employed by several Norwegian firms which last year purchased large quantities of Russian oil on such favourable terms as to make us highly interested in the continuation of this type of trade.*

NATIONEN (Norway)

The British and Russian delegates to the Economic Commission for Europe today reached agreement on the wording of the important resolution on the study of means for the development of trade within Europe, and especially between East and West... It is a token of the practical interest which the United Kingdom and the Western countries sharing her views are taking in the study of all means for developing wider trade with Eastern Europe.

THE TIMES (Britain)

The public and the Government is not going to be very long willing to see our shipping, our ports and our industries deprived of business and trade to humor isolationists and high protectionists.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE (USA)

"The new agreement with the Soviet Union (the Soviet-Swedish trade protocol for 1954) *opens up opportunities for much larger trade with that country. It represents a definite improvement in our trade relations which the Swedish side welcomes..."*

The successful conclusion of the negotiations shows that ideological differences are no obstacle to peaceful trade.

MORGON-TIDNINGEN—Interview with the Swedish Minister of Commerce and the paper's comments (Sweden)

The agreements (between the Argentine and certain Eastern European countries) *are undoubtedly beneficial since they aid the development of commercial activity between the signatories and at the same timc consolidate international relations.*

EL LIDER (Argentine)

The idea is growing more and more that the extension of East-West trade is not only important economically, but that it also makes a considerable contribution to lessening international tension.

DEUTSCHE VOLKSZEITUNG (Germany)

A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

On March 1st, 1954, the American authorities exploded an H-bomb in the vicinity of Bikini atoll, in the Pacific Ocean.

Twenty-three Japanese fishermen on board their vessel, the "Fukuryu Maru," 91 miles from the centre of the explosion, were gravely affected. Burn-like sores caused by falling radioactive ash appeared on their bodies.

On returning to Japan, the fishermen were affected in different ways—their hair began to fall out; their blood corpuscles and eyesight were affected; some showed symptoms of cancer of the skin. The Press reports that three or four of the fishing vessels, which were in the vicinity of the Marshall Islands on March 1st, have failed to return to port.

A considerably higher number of Japanese people could have become victims of this frightful bomb if the radioactive fish on sale in the market of the port of Yaezu, had not been seized. Geiger counters showed that contact with the fish might have proved fatal.

Public opinion throughout the world is shocked by this crime against humanity perpetrated on the compatriots of the victims of the Hiroshima massacre.

Drawing attention to this revolting experiment, the Very Reverend Dr. Hewlett Johnson, D.D., Dean of Canterbury, declared during a sermon in the cathedral on Sunday, March 21st:

"If ever there was a duty laid upon a Christian people it is the duty of insisting that negotiations be renewed at once with a view to a universal banning, and that the masses are supplied with the facts . . .

Millions of lives are at stake. It is a challenge personally to each and all."

Dr. Donald Soper, who as President of the Methodist Conference is leader of a million British Methodists, declared on March 25th: "I appeal to Christians everywhere to demand of their Governments that, whatever the cost and whatever the dangers, such weapons should be entirely outlawed."

"As a token of their repudiation of German rearmament"

CEREMONIES BEFORE FRANCE'S WAR MEMORIALS DEMONSTRATE NATIONAL UNITY

On countless walls and little monuments in France, marble plaques record the fact that Frenchmen have perished as a result of German militarism and Nazism; and even the remotest hamlet has its memorial to those who fell in two world wars.

On March 12th, 13th and 14th, thousands of delegations bedecked these memorials with the national colours, "as a token of their repudiation of German rearmament".

The few examples given below emphasise both the simplicity and the unprecedented extent of these ceremonies.

Of the 80 communes in the Paris area and the 20 boroughs in Paris proper, there was not one where a ceremony did not take place.

At Vitry, the curé tolled the knell as 200 people gathered at the war memorial.

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People of all shades of opinion were brought together at these ceremonies. At Saint-Raphaël, it was the Gaullist mayor who officiated; at Oyannax, it was the Communist General (Departmental) Councillor and the Socialist Mayor. In Rouen, one of the organisers was the Deputy-Mayor, an Independent.

In Orleans, the Gaullist Deputy Mayor rubbed shoulders with Socialist and Communist Councillors, while in Limoges two worker-priests led the procession together with a Gaullist Municipal Councillor . . .

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It is 3.15 p.m., Saturday 13th, in the Place de l'Etoile in the very heart of Paris; a group of war-wounded ex-servicemen solemnly approach the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. M. Etienne Nouveau, Vice-President of the French Union of Ex-Servicemen's Associations, is at their head. The custodian of the Tomb, himself a war casualty, warmly shakes M. Nouveau by the hand.

The group places a wreath with the inscription, "War-wounded—1914-18" at the foot of the Tomb.

An the same time on the following day, in Rochefort (Charente-Maritime), the Municipal Council together with two Deputies, M. Bignon (Gaullist) and M. Gosnat (Communist) and leaders of ex-servicemen's associations, place a wreath on the war memorial.

Since morning, a large number of police have been surrounding the memorial for the purpose of preventing the ceremony from taking place. But they bow to the will of the people; they spring to attention and salute.

In the square where the memorial stands there is a travelling fair; the townsfolk and the fair people both observe a minute's silence. Everything comes to a standstill.

In a corner of the Gare du Nord in Paris, too, all the bustle suddenly stops. Two railwaymen place a wreath beneath the marble plaques which commemorate the thousands of their comrades who died in the 1914-18 war, the 316 who were killed in the last war, the 123 who were shot, the 237 who died after being deported and the 1,232 others who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

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At Fives-Lille, the engineers stopped work and gathered before the portraits of their comrades who were shot. Boulogne dockers and the workers of the Saurer factory at Suresnes came out on strike.

They set the example. Others followed. Building workers, employees of the French Gas and Electricity Board, of the public utility services and the Public Assistance, Parisian transport workers, railwaymen and postmen, the personnel of Air France, the Bank of France, Television, Atomic Energy, civil servants in the Ministry of Fine Arts, and so on—workers of all kinds everywhere joined in this countrywide demonstration by stopping work, by observing the minute's silence or by forming delegations to the memorial plaques.

Twenty-two French citizens of widely differing political complexions had issued a joint invitation to their countrymen to take part in this national demonstration against German rearmament. Among them were:

M. Edouard Herriot, former President of the Council of Ministers, Honorary President of the National Assembly; M. Edouard Daladier, former President of the Council of Ministers, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Jacques Bardoux, member of the Institute, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee; M. André Denis, Catholic Deputy; M. Edmond Michelet, former Minister, member of the National Defence Committee; Colonel Manhès, President of the International Federation of Former Resistance Fighters and M. Etienne Nouveau, barrister at the Paris Court of Appeal, both of them representatives of the wartime Resistance organisation; the Abbé Pierre (whose under-cover name during the Resistance was Groues), former chaplain to the Vercors maquis; M. Boissarie, former Procurator General; M. René Capitant, former Minister, and the author, "Vercors."

Their appeal called upon Frenchmen to place wreaths of red, white and blue flowers bearing the inscription "A token of our repudiation of German rearmament."

In a statement issued on March 16th, the organisers drew attention to the success of the three days of commemoration and called upon all Frenchmen "to be ready for further action to put a halt to the rearmament of Germany."

IN ALGERIA, *public petition against EDC.*

Algerian citizens of every shade of political opinion and from all walks of life have signed an appeal condemning EDC and urging their Deputies to reject the Bonn and Paris Agreements.

After recalling the sufferings endured by the peoples of North Africa during the war, the appeal emphasises the danger to all peoples who hold freedom dear of a revival of German militarism, and "the disastrous economic and political consequences for Algeria" which would follow in the wake of the ratification of EDC.

Among those who signed this Appeal were: Rashid Dali Bey, General (Departmental) Councillor of Algiers and Sheik Abdelalif Soltani; M. André Mendouze, Lecturer at the Algiers Faculty of Literature; Abderrahman Boushama, architect, member of the World Council of Peace; Ali Boumendjel, barrister and Member of the World Council of Peace; Guessoum Dahmane, secretary of the Confederation of Workers' Unions of Algeria and numerous doctors, shopkeepers, lawyers, professors, and secretaries and presidents of trade unions.

On the basis of this Appeal, a broad public petition was launched by the Permanent Committee for Action Against EDC, and a special campaign was organised for the week ending March 28th.

Tenth Conference of the Organisation of American States

OPINION THROUGHOUT AMERICAN CONTINENT HARDENING AGAINST U. S INTERFERENCE IN GUATEMALAN AFFAIRS

AFTER pressure had been brought to bear by Mr. Foster Dulles, the majority of the delegates at the Tenth Conference of the Organisation of American States (OAS) adopted a declaration which, according to Señor Toriello, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, was a threat to his country.

After the vote had been taken, the Minister made it clear that Guatemala "would appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations if the United States attempted to intervene in her internal affairs on the pretext of the anti-Communist declaration approved by the Conference."

Public opinion throughout the American Continent echoed these sentiments: that the Caracas Conference resolution, following upon acts by certain American States and which had been denounced by the Guatemalan Government, was a threat to Guatemala's sovereignty and independence.

These sentiments were reflected in the Conference itself. The French newspaper, "Le Monde," quoting messages from Reuter, Agence France Presse, Associated Press and United Press, wrote on March 9th: "The majority of the Latin-American delegates made no secret of the fact that they feared US intervention in the internal affairs of their countries if this resolution was adopted."

An editorial in the "New York Post" said that Mr. Dulles, having come to Caracas to create an anti-Communist front, went home, leaving behind him an embryonic anti-US front.

The abstention of two great States—the Argentine and Mexico—as well as the reservations made by Uruguay, show, in effect, that there was no question of a "front," whatever the "New York Post" might say about Mr. Dulles having won a victory of words.

Señor Padilla Nervo, the Mexican delegate, when giving the reasons for his abstention, asserted that the resolution drove a breach through the principle of non-intervention. The Argentine delegate also abstained after stating that his country would only vote for a resolution that "expressly recognised the right of peoples to choose their own form of government."

The Uruguayan delegate had this to say about his vote in support of the resolution: "We have given our support without enthusiasm, without optimism and without feeling that we have contributed to the adoption of a constructive measure."

This is the first time that an American State has openly denounced, at an Inter-Continental Conference, Washington's interference in the affairs of Latin American countries. Such has been the reaction that the "New York Post" writes: "Even a prominent figure of the extreme Right, such as the dictator of Venezuela,... was more interested in the charges of intervention made by Guatemala against the United States than in the charges made by Mr. Dulles... The applause which accompanied the attacks of Guatemala's Foreign Minister contrasted oddly with the significant silence which greeted Mr. Dulles' tirades against Communism." (Retranslation).

Here is an excerpt from the speech of **Señor Toriello,** *Foreign Minister of Guatemala:*

"Why is there a desire to interfere with Guatemala? ...

"Foreign investments have been made to comply with our laws and we have recovered and preserved complete independence in our foreign policy ...

"Any Latin American Government which strives to fulfil a genuinely national programme encroaching on the interests of the powerful foreign companies (in whose hands lie the greater part of Latin America's basic wealth), will be charged with being Communist, it will be accused of being a threat to the security of the Continent, of breaking Continental solidarity and will be in danger of foreign intervention.

"Before this Conference and before the conscience of America, we denounce the political aggression, the threats of economic blockade and intervention levelled at Guatemala. We think that the Organisation of American States, being a regional organism of the United Nations, must, in the interests of genuine international co-operation, uphold the political and economic independence of the various States as legally equal entities and masters of their own destiny."

Continent-wide Support for the Guatemalan People

The following Latin-American organisations have demonstrated their support for the Guatemalan people: The Confederation of Latin-American Workers; The Bolivian TUC; The Confederation of Brazilian Workers and the Preparatory Committee of the Convention for National Emancipation, which consists of a hundred Brazilian citizens of different opinions; The Chilean National Council of Young Defenders of Peace and the Amalgamated Trade Unions of Chile, and others.

Numerous Latin-American newspapers have also been critical of the foreign interference in Guatemala's affairs: for instance, *"Diario de Noticias"* and *"Diario Carioca"* in Brazil; *"Excelsior"* and *"El Nacional"* in Mexico; *"Nacion"* in Argentina; *"Justicia," "El Debate"* and *"El Bien Publico"* in Uruguay; *"El Sol"* in Ecuador, and so on.

Trade union leaders in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Uruguay have stated that the Caracas Conference was hardly justified considering the form it took.

A protest meeting took place in New York against interference in Guatemala's affairs at which Professor Morss Lovett, Paul Robeson, the editor of the "National Guardian" and Albert J. Fitzgerald, the President of the United Radio, Electrical and Mechanical Workers, made speeches.

National Peace

A National Peace Conference was held in Vienna on March 13th and 14th. More than 400 delegates from every province in Austria attended. It is of interest that many of the delegates had not previously taken part in any activities of the Peace Movement.

The session opened with a report on Austria and European Security given by Professor Brandweiner, President of the Austrian Peace Council.

Five commissions were formed during the Conference:

(1) A Commission to study ways of protecting the people from warlike films, books and reviews of West German origin which are disseminating war propaganda.

(2) A commission of ex-servicemen to look into the question as to what purpose is served by ex-servicemen's associations, meetings and periodicals.

This commission condemned the exploitation of the spirit of comradeship amongst ex-servicemen for the sake of militaristic propaganda.

(3) A commission to study the possibility of a good relations policy with all countries, and of Austria remaining aloof from war preparations (such as the building of strategic roads, the mining of bridges, the fortification of the Alps, etc.)

(4) A commission on the peaceful unification of Germany and opposition to any encouragement of German rearmament.

(5) A commission on publicity and explanatory work on the aims of the Peace Movement.

The work of the Conference was done in these commissions and 174 delegates spoke.

There were also representatives of other National Peace Movements at the Conference: Italy was represented by *General Roveda*, France by *M. Poinsignon*, Czechoslovakia by *Mr. Horák* and *Mr. Hájek* and Hungary by *Mrs. Benke*.

Señor Zalamea greeted the Conference in the name of the World Council of Peace.

"The US and French Governments want to prolong and extend the war"

Says the Viet-Nam Peace Committee

The question of Indo-China, which will be on the agenda of the Geneva Conference in April, was recently the subject of a debate in the French National Assembly. That in the course of the discussion no one could be found, either on the Government bench or amongst the Deputies, to advocate openly the continuation of the war in Viet-Nam, is proof indeed of the strength of French public opinion which is demanding an immediate cease-fire and the opening of negotiations in Indo-China.

It should also be recalled that the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, M. Hoang Ming Giam, on March 9th, renewed the offer to open Peace negotiations made last November by President Ho Chi Minh in his interview with the Swedish newspaper "Expressen."

In response to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam's repeated offers of Peace and Pandit Nehru's proposal for a cease-fire, many French Deputies expressed their desire for the immediate opening of negotiations in the debate in Parliament.

Here are a few excerpts from the main speeches:

M. Daniel Mayer

(Socialist and former Minister).

"To await passively the Geneva Conference would be contrary to French interests and to Peace, which will be more easily established if the guns have already stopped firing."

M. Mendes-France

(Radical and former Minister)

"There is a great hidden motive in your policy—US military intervention. The Geneva Conference is only a diplomatic ruse to enable you to continue the war after having made a pretence of seeking Peace and providing yourselves with an alibi . . .

"We must try for direct negotiations based on the desire for Peace of the French and Vietnamese peoples. And we must start now."

M. Arthur Giovoni

(Communist Deputy)

"The National Assembly—the expression of the nation's will—must ask the Government to start immediate negotiations for a cease-fire before the Geneva Conference, the task of which would be to settle the conditions of Peace. This is what the nation demands."

M. Edouard Daladier

(Former President of the Council of Ministers)

"I still say that the armistice should be concluded before Geneva. The two things —cease-fire and Conference—are closely connected . . . The Government has no right to let slip an occasion for putting an end to a tragedy which has lasted too long."

The Viet-Nam Committee has published a declaration in which it "strongly protests, in the name of the Defenders of Peace and the people of Viet-Nam, against the direct intervention of the leaders of the United States in the war of aggression against Viet-Nam."

After pointing out that "during recent years, the US warmongers have interfered in the war of aggression against Viet-Nam, Khmer (Cambodia) and Pathet Lao (Laos)," the declaration continues: "Recently, the US Government intervened still further by sending US planes which are taking a direct part in the massacre of the people of Viet-Nam, Khmer and Pathet Lao . . .

"The Viet-Nam Peace Committee, in the name of the Vietnamese people, denounces, before all who cherish Peace and before the American people, the criminal plan of the warmongers who are striving, together with the French colonialists, to protract and extend the war of aggression in Viet-Nam."

Conference in Austria

"Have nothing to do with war preparations"

One of the Conference resolutions stated:

"The participants in the Conference of the Austrian Peace Movement draw the attention of the Austrian people to the danger for the world and above all for Austria of the plans for German rearmament and remilitarisation. The danger of German militarism is no less great because it is being carried out under the name of a 'European Army' . . .

"Our country must have nothing to do with any war preparations, wherever and under whatever pretext they are being made. That is why Austria must neither join the Council of Europe nor enter any other unilateral alliance. No military base must be established on Austrian soil."

"The poison of war propaganda"

The Conference addressed those people and institutions responsible for the education of young people and who contribute to the forming of Austrian public opinion. It called upon them to unite in protecting the Austrian people from the poison of war propaganda. It recommended bookshops and libraries to stop the sale or circulation of books and reviews which foster war hysteria and, conversely, to give priority to books and reviews which encourage the idea of Peace.

"Let us ban books, periodicals and films which condone war, paint it in idyllic colours, make it appear inevitable or even desirable and glorify brutality and violence!" So runs the "Appeal to Conscience," issued by the Conference.

"Let us see to it that the spirit of understanding and friendship between the peoples supplants the spirit of hatred and war."

The women of Viet-Nam greet their American sisters

On International Women's Day, Mme Le Thi Xuyen, President of the Viet-Nam Women's Union, sent greetings to American women struggling for Peace. She said:

"The US Government's activities are aimed at maintaining international tension and run counter to the desire for Peace of the women and people in America, Viet-Nam and the rest of the world."

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One hundred and forty professional people in Saigon and Cholon, towns controlled by the French Expeditionary Corps, have put their signatures to a statement inviting the French Government to give the order for the cessation of hostilities in order that a peaceful solution of the conflict can be reached in the interests of the Vietnamese and French peoples.

Among the signatories are a number of lawyers and doctors in Saigon and two Buddhist priests.

*

The Viet-Nam Socialist Party has adopted a resolution protesting against the intervention of the United States in the war in Viet-Nam.

The Democratic Party of Viet-Nam has also made a declaration calling upon "all Peace-lovers, including the Americans and the French, to foil the plans of the US warmongers so that the Viet-Nam problem can be settled peacefully."

In a message to the World Council of Peace, the Central Liaison Committee of the 4,000,000-strong Viet-Nam Peasants' Association for National Liberation makes an energetic protest against US intervention in the war in Indo-China.

Western Germany rearms

The Committee for German Unity (Berlin) reports several facts bearing on the rearmament which has been carried out in the Federal German Republic. Here are some of them:

Three big military formations today constitute the armed forces of the Bonn Republic. They are the police, the German Service units and the auxiliary military organisations. Their effectives amount to 419,000 men.

It should be noted that in pre-Hitler Germany the Reichswehr was only 100,000-strong.

The police force in the Federal Republic contains 174,000 men. Each detachment of the frontier force, consisting of 100 men, possesses 10 machine guns, five mortars and an American armoured car armed with two heavy machine guns. The frontier force has anti-aircraft guns and patrol boats.

German service units exist in all the Western zones and total some 145,000 men. They bear such names as "Labour Service" (in the American Zone); "German Service Organisation" (in the British Zone); "Les organisations de service" (in the French Zone) and are commanded respectively by the former Hitler general, Brandenberger, Count von Schwerin, an ex-member of the Nazi General Staff, and General Wegmann.

The auxiliary military organisations consist of 100,000 men. Practical measures are being taken in Bonn to increase the armed forces of the Federal Republic in the near future. A great number of barracks (built for bombed-out families) have been requisitioned in Schleswig, Kiel, Lübeck, Neumünster, Rendsburg and Ulm. Other buildings are down for requisitioning and 250 new barracks are to be constructed for the troops. In Dusseldorf, Dortmund and Bonn special centres are being installed for the medical examination of prospective airmen.

There are 528 ex-servicemen's associations which form a reserve for the creation of the armed forces of the Federal Republic. Several factories are turning out war material to equip these forces—rifles, machine guns, grenades, mines, small tanks, warships (including submarines), dynamite, asphyxiating gas, parachutes, military uniforms, etc.

Such at the moment is the state of the preparations for the official introduction of compulsory military service and the creation of a new Wehrmacht in the German Federal Republic.

Strong protests against compulsory military service

There is a wave of protests in the German Federal Republic following upon the decision adopted by the Bundestag to introduce compulsory military service.

At Wuppertal, the building workers, at the annual meeting of the Masons', Quarrymen's and Excavators' Union, unanimously decided to call upon all trade unionists and workers in Western and Eastern Germany to avert the danger of the recruitment of young people in Western Germany and the revival of German militarism.

At a great protest meeting in Nuremberg, Social-Democratic workers from the Siemens-Schuckert works endorsed the decision of 2,500 Social-Democrats in Kaiserlautern to do everything possible to stop the recruitment of West German youth.

Workers in the Masons' Union in Detmold and the Chemical Workers' Union in Hamburg, at their annual meetings, protested against the inauguration of compulsory military service.

In Stuttgart, a meeting was held of 1,000 people.

Nine hundred women from Lower Saxony sent a protest against the recruiting plan to Herr Ehlers, President of the Bundestag. A similar declaration bore the signatures of 3,200 women in Hesse.

In Hagen, a group of youngsters burned a great placard representing a soldier's pay-book in the street.

In Stuttgart and in Southern Bavaria, young Social-Democrats protested against the Bundestag's revision of the Federal Constitution.

In the Western sectors of Berlin, lively demonstrations have taken place in front of the biggest electrical and engineering concerns.

A section of the Press in the Federal Republic has joined in the protests against the Bundestag decision. The *"Westdeutsches Tageblatt"* of Dortmund, for example, wrote: *"It may be that one day millions of Germans will pay for this decision which has just been taken in Bonn."* The newspaper points out that rearmament in Western Germany *"is an infringement of International Law."*

The *"Westdeutsches Tageblatt"* draws a parallel with the militarisation of Germany during the Nazi domination, and goes on: *"Let us recall the fatal 15th of March, 1935, when the demagogue, Goebbels, pouring forth assurances of his love of Peace, announced to a startled world the reintroduction of compulsory military service in Germany, and Hitler's order for 15 divisions. We have long known the terrible consequences of this event."*

THE PARIS C
PUBLIC FIGU

The International Conference of the Six Countrie
was held in Paris on March 20th and 21st at t
Honorary President of the French National Asse
Ministers, as chairman *in absentia*. For two days,
the six countries which are members of the Euro
either took part in the proceedings or attended as o

The distinguished Frenchmen who had taken th
it should be recalled, belong to the principal politi
ment the three points which would be submitted for

(1) Examination of the Treaty setting up EDC.
(2) The attitude to EDC of the various countrie
(3) The consequences of EDC for the freedom
Peace.

The participants decided that the Conference sho
should be assured of complete freedom of discussion.

Opening the debate, M. Edmond Michelet decl
Conference were not necessarily in agreement on
against the so-called European Army, nevertheles
better than war and that EDC was leading to ultima

"I was reading yesterday," continued M. Michele
well and who claimed that it was necessary to get
certainly agree. But we also agree that one heredit
Europe must not be created on the basis of indisput

"This is the reason why the French are glad to w
Europe, gathered here, together with—and we are
ives of the British nation."

Message from M. Edouard Herriot

"I feel I must give my colleagues and compatriots who have taken this step the mark of my sincerest esteem and all good wishes for the complete success of this Conference.

"With all my heart I hope that all Frenchmen will achieve unity on a formula which would safeguard the national sovereignty of our country while sparing her the perils of a new and frightful catastrophe from which she would not be preserved by the illusory guarantees of the European Defence Community in its present form."

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During the plenary session on Saturday afternoon, M. Edmond Michelet read some of the many messages of support received by the Standing Committee. Among these were messages from:

The German writer, **Thomas Mann,** *Nobel Prize-winner;* **Pastor Niemöller;** *the Italian Deputies,* **Signor Viola,** *Christian Democrat and President of the Italian Ex-servicemen's Association, and* **Signor de Francesco** *(Monarchist), Rector of Milan University;* **M. Hamilius,** *Mayor of Luxembourg;* **Lord Boyd Orr,** F.R.S.; **Mr. Hugh Dalton,** *former President of the Board of Trade;* **Professor Gerbrandi,** *former President of the Dutch Council of Ministers;* **M. Pholien,** *former Prime Minister of Belgium;* **M. Struye,** *President of the Belgian Senate, and so on.*

M. Michelet also drew attention to the messages of **Herr Fritz-Wenzel** *and* **Herr Baade,** *Social Democratic Deputies in the Bundestag and to* **Herr Guggenheimer** *and* **Herr Linsert,** *trade union leaders in the German Federal Republic.*

IS CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER GURES FROM THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY EDC

Countries Affected by the European Defence Community
1st at the Palais d'Orsay, with M. Edouard Herriot,
nal Assembly and former President of the Council of
wo days, Parliamentary and other public figures from
the European coal-steel pool, and from Great Britain,
ded as observers.
taken the initiative in calling the Conference and who,
al political parties in France, had specified in a state-
itted for the agenda:
o EDC.
countries affected and the principal trends of opinion.
reedom and security of the nations of Europe and for

ence should be of a private character so that everyone
scussion.
elet declared that "even if those taking part in the
ment on policies, ideals or the reasons for struggling
vertheless all were of the opinion that anything was
o ultimate catastrophe . . .
Michelet, "the remarks of a man whom I know very
y to get rid of the idea of the hereditary enemy. We
hereditary enemy must not be substituted for another;
indisputably warlike principles.
glad to welcome the representatives of Europe, of Little
we are particularly grateful for this—the representat-

THE PROCEEDINGS

MR. HUGH DELARGY, British Labour Party M.P., drew the particular attention of the French to the danger that the British Government might make vague gestures on the eve of the debate in the National Assembly.

PASTOR HERBERT MOCHALSKI, from the German Federal Republic, opposed the projected European Army because: firstly, it would multiply the dangers of war with the USSR; secondly, it would make the unification of Germany impossible; thirdly, the formation of German divisions, in whatever form, would be a deadly danger to Germany and the other countries.

M. GILBERT DE CHAMBRUN, French Deputy, citing Mr. Molotov's European Security Plan, proceeded to show that it was not incompatible with the text of the Atlantic Pact, but with the way in which the latter is being carried out.

MR. ARCHIBALD MACDOUGALL, member of the British Labour Party and President of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers, declared that the continually growing number of Labour M.Ps deciding to oppose EDC and German rearmament, in the absence of any serious attempt at negotiation with the East, was a reflection of the ever-growing pressure brought to bear on them by the rank and file in the Labour Movement.

M. LAURENT CASANOVA, French Deputy and former Minister, emphasised the collective responsibility which devolved henceforth upon those taking part in the Conference.

M. DENIS, French Deputy, asked Conference and the public to request the Soviet Union to specify its proposals for European Security and Economic Co-operation, since the Western Governments had not done so.

PROFESSOR VERMEIL, Professor Emeritus at the Sorbonne, considered that it should be realised that EDC is in fact conceived as the instrument of an internal police force for Germany and Europe.

M. EDOUARD DALADIER, French Deputy and former President of the Council of Ministers, condemned the European Army treaty because it made the establishment of a real Europe impossible. He hailed the Conference as the first congress of such a real Europe.

HERR GUSTAV HEINEMAN, former Minister of the Interior in the German Federal Government and President of the United Germany Party, declared that the partisans of EDC were boasting of accomplishing the impossible: creating a German army which would be more powerful than the Red Army, yet not as strong as the French army.

FRAU ROSEL HILLEBRAND, Deputy in the Bavarian Diet (German Federal Republic) stressed the fact that the rearmament of Western Germany will put the generals back in power, will kill democracy and leave the road open for a new German hegemony over Europe.

SIGNOR PIETRO NENNI, Italian Deputy and former Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, was of the opinion that EDC would prove an insurmountable obstacle to world Peace. He thought that the Italian Parliament should not open the debate on the ratification of EDC until the French Parliament had reached a decision, one way or another, since the initiative lay with the French.

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Contributions were also made by: **Professor Bernard Lavergne,** Professor of Law at the Sorbonne; **Frau Helene Wessel,** former Deputy and Vice-President of the United Germany Party; **Signor Ricardo Lombardi,** Italian Socialist Deputy; **M. Henri Rolin,** Belgian Minister of State, Senator, and former President of the Belgian Senate; **M. Louis Vallon,** French Deputy; **M. Emile Kahn,** President of the League of the Rights of Man (France); **Signor Terracini,** former President of the Italian Constituent Assembly; **Mr. John Elton,** a British barrister; **Mr. Ted Bedford,** Secretary of the London Co-operative Society; **M. Michel Debré,** French Senator; **M. Claude Bourdet,** director of the French periodical *"Observateur d'aujourd'hui"* and **M. Jacques Kayser,** the French publicist.

THE CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee elected by Conference consisted of **Signor Ricardo Lombardi,** Deputy and former Minister (Italy); **Mr. Archibald MacDougall,** President of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers (Britain); **M. Edmond Michelet,** Senator and former Minister (France); **M. Henri Rolin,** Minister of State, Senator and former President of the Senate (Belgium), and **Frau Helene Wessel,** former Deputy, one of the Presidents of the Gesamtdeutscher Volkspartei (Popular Party of United Germany).

The first session was chaired by **M. Edmond Michelet;** the second by **M. Henri Rolin;** the third by **M. Edouard Daladier.**

THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1 **EDC, far from increasing the chances of Peace or of being a lesser evil, would bar the road to negotiations between East and West and would create an insurmountable obstacle to the peaceful unification of Germany whose division is having ethnical, economic and moral effects detrimental to the whole of Europe; it would create an atmosphere of growing tension which could result in war.**

2 **The rearmament of Germany as envisaged by EDC, far from increasing the chances for German democracy, lays it open to the danger of being strangled a second time by the revival of militarism; the so-called guarantees contained in the EDC treaty are purely illusory.**

3 **We can, therefore, expect nothing but dreadful consequences from a projected treaty which obliges the different Parliaments to transfer vital functions to the irresponsible organs of an artificial community, which imperils the moral fibre and independence of these countries and could lead to the twilight of individual liberty.**

4 **Consequently, Conference, anxious to see a sound Europe, rejects EDC. It asks that the Berlin negotiations be reopened with a view to reaching agreement on the various international issues including the peaceful unification of Germany, the holding of free elections throughout Germany, the conclusion of German and Austrian Peace Treaties and the restoration of normal trade and cultural relations between East and West as well as the organisation of a system of collective security and disarmament based on the association of the States of Europe, on respect for the Charter of the United Nations and of treaties already in force, and excluding any preponderance of power. It is by this road, and not that of prior rearmament, that Germany, assured of a peaceful destiny, will find once more her rightful place in the community of nations.**

5 **Conference expresses its gratitude to the promoters of the Paris Conference and it expresses its desire to see the co-operation thus begun among the opponents of the EDC Treaty continued and widened in every way deemed practicable.**

"WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE WAILING OF THE AIR-RAID SIRENS"

declare representatives of 174,000 British women

Since the Labour Party Executive virtually endorsed the Government's support for a German contribution to EDC, 42 district and constituency Labour Parties, four national and two regional trade union executives and 120 trade union organisations, including 15 trades councils, have declared their opposition to any remilitarisation of Germany.

In Manchester, for example, the City Labour Party, representing 200,000 members, passed an emergency resolution demanding a two-day conference to decide policy on the German question "after democratic discussion and vote."

Members of all the principal political clubs at Cambridge University—The Conservative Association, the Socialist Club and the Communist Club—signed a letter to the Press strongly opposing German rearmament. "Germany is a potential Korea," they said. "To arm the Western half is to perpetuate that split, the removal of which is the condition of any real progress toward a lasting international settlement."

Six Labour M.Ps—**Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Mr. Chetwynd, Miss Jennie Lee, Mr. George Thomas, Mr. Eric Fletcher and Mr. Ian Mikardo**—tabled a motion of protest in the House of Commons against the fact that the British High Commission in Germany had announced that it had "no objection" to the West German decision to exhume and rebury "honourably" the bodies of 91 executed war criminals, including Josef Kramer, "The Beast of Belsen" and the notorious Irma Grese. The motion said that this was an "arrogant repudiation of guilt" and was in response to pressure from German nationalist elements.

There must be a storm of protest

At mass meetings in London, Manchester and Glasgow, on March 7th, 2,354 delegates of the National Assembly of Women, from all over Britain, most of them wives and mothers, issued a *"Call To The Nation"* which demanded *"a storm of protest against a great danger to us all—the rearmament of Germany."*

"We have not forgotten the wailing of the air-raid sirens," ran the Call, *"the endless nights when the sky above Coventry, London, Clydeside and scores of British towns, was red with the fires of our burning homes, when Nazi bombs shattered our schools and hospitals; the bitter partings from husbands and sons, the evacuation of our young, impressionable children . . .*

"In no spirit of revenge and in full sympathy with the German women, who feel and protest as we do, we declare our unshakable opposition to the rearming of Germany.

"German generals must not be armed again. We demand that the decision of the Government to arm them shall be immediately withdrawn . . ."

"It is horrible to speak of such things"

Here are some examples of the opinions on the German question given at the three meetings by the delegates who represented 174,000 women from the industrial areas and the villages of Britain:

Miss Maisie Hill, a shorthand typist, reminded the Assembly of the March night, 13 years before, when Clydebank was left flaming after the Nazi bombing raid. Her own home had been destroyed. "We must see to it such things never happen again," she said,

Mrs. Goldman of Manchester said: **"I come from Germany and my family were killed in a concentration camp. There are millions of women in Germany herself who want Peace and they, too, are against the military clique. In Belsen, men and women were gassed and burnt, their skin was used for lampshades, their flesh turned into fat. I know it's horrible to speak of these things, but don't let us ever forget them."**

Mrs. Helen Crome of London also described what she and her brother had endured in prisons and concentration camps in Nazi Germany. Her mother had died under torture. Her voice breaking, she cried: "This happened to millions in Europe . . ."

"People like you stopped the war in Korea"

A returned prisoner-of-war from Korea, Mr. Ron Cocks of London, after describing how he had seen Korean women and children machine-gunned from the air, told the women: "It was people like you who stopped the war in Korea—now you have to stop German rearmament."

Mr. Christian Constable, a mother of five from Aberdeen, denounced the two years' conscription and colonial wars. She brought tears to the eyes of the delegates when she cried in a ringing voice:

"We bear children. We struggle to bring them up. For God's sake bring our boys home—build the playing fields where they can meet the youth of other lands in friendship, instead of shooting between the eyes of some poor laddie they never knew."

Signatures are now being collected to thousands of appeal forms, bearing the women's *"Call To The Nation,"* by shop stewards, trade union officials and women in National Assembly branches.

Emergency Conference on German Rearmament called by British Peace Committee

The Executive of the British Peace Committee has called an emergency conference of individuals and organisations seeking a peaceful alternative to the policy of rebuilding German militarism. It is to be held in London on April 3rd and 4th. Announcing this, the British Peace Committee stated:

"Since the Berlin Conference, clear proof has been given that a majority of British people oppose German rearmament . . . That is why efforts are being made to end the discussions by proceeding immediately with West German rearmament.

"If those in Britain who are against the rearmament of West Germany would act together in a great campaign, Germany will not be rearmed . . ."

The Executive urged members of all political parties, and men and women in all walks of life, to call emergency conferences on the subject in every locality.

IN DENMARK:
National Peace Conference to be held, May 29th and 30th

An appeal announcing a Danish Peace Conference for May 29th and 30th has just been made by a sponsoring committee composed of 167 public figures representing various pacifist groups and movements in Denmark working for Peace.

The invitation, which has just been issued by the sponsoring committee, says:

"The plans for rearming Germany, creating a European Army, installing air bases and stationing foreign troops in Denmark and other countries create problems which can have a decisive influence on the Peace of our part of the world.

"That is why we are issuing this invitation for a wide public discussion dealing with current national and international problems, with particular reference to the situation in Denmark and in the Nordic countries and the positive contribution these countries can make to safeguard Peace."

Among the signatories are the representatives of the following organisations: "No More War!", "United Nations Association" and "Women Pacifists." There are also Presidents of the Peasants' Federations, trade union leaders, municipal councillors, pastors, doctors, lawyers, Justices of the Peace, engineers, teachers and university professors and directors of teachers' training colleges.

FROM CAIRO TO CALCUTTA

Protests Continue To Grow Against the US-Pakistan Pact

IN INDIA

The recent declaration of Pandit Nehru and the refusal of the Indian Government on March 14th to grant entry visas to a group of American observers who were to relieve the US Military Mission in Kashmir, have everywhere been greeted with enthusiasm. A resolution was unanimously adopted at a public meeting in Calcultta on March 11th which claimed that the continued presence of US military observers in Kashmir would be improper in view of US military aid to Pakistan.

For the first time since the creation of the State of Pakistan, elections have taken place in East Bengal where half the population live.

The results give an interesting indication of the way public opinion in Pakistan is developing.

The United Opposition Front obtained 119 seats against the four seats of the Moslem League (the Government). Four Ministers, including the Chief Minister, were beaten by United Front candidates.

In the United Front, besides the Awami League and the Krishak Sramik (Peasant) Party, there are the Ganatantri Dal (Democratic Party), the Khilafat-I-Rabbani (Islam Party) and the East Pakistan Communist Party.

The Premier of Kashmir, **Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed,** and the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly, **Gulam Mohammed Sadiq,** pledged their full support for the Indian Government's stand. The Kashmir Students' Federation pledged the support of the young people of Kashmir for Premier Nehru's statement.

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In different parts of India, Moslems have denounced the Pact. **Maulana Hifzur Rehman,** Member of the Indian Parliament and a Moslem leader, gave an interview to the Delhi Moslem newspaper, *"Al Jamiat,"* in which he described US military aid to Pakistan as "an evident challenge to Asia" and an example of US plans to expand their domination over that continent.

In Bombay and Lucknow, on March 7th and 8th, Moslems denounced the US-Pakistan Pact.

At another meeting in Lucknow on March 1st, a State convention was called for April 3rd and 4th. It will "study and expose US intrigues and infiltration in various walks of Indian life and find out effective methods of combatting US designs in South and South-East Asia."

In Madras, Raja Khan, a Moslem League member of the Madras Legislative Council, said at a Council meeting that US military aid would not benefit Pakistan in any way.

IN THE LEBANON

The newspaper, *"Al Sarkha,"* writes: "The Beirut Conference in Defence of the Rights of the Peoples of the Middle East, at which almost all the Arab peoples together with those of Iran were represented, reflected the decision of these peoples to oppose all aggressive pacts organised by the imperialist States with the USA at their head."

IN EGYPT

Commenting on the declaration of the Minister of Foreign Affairs inviting the countries of the Middle East to join the Iranian-Turkish Treaty, the newspaper, *"Al Gumhuriya,"* wrote in an editorial: "We can tell the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and responsible leaders in Washington, that the Arab and Moslem peoples in the Middle East refuse to pass through the doors which imperialism opens to them under the label of joint defence... or under any other label. No new imperialist bloc, hidden behind some other name, can persuade the Arab and Moslem peoples to sell their national freedom."

Recalling the declaration of Mr. Jalal Bayer, President of Turkey, advocating a pact between his country, Pakistan and the USA, the same newspaper writes: "The Arab peoples view with disquiet and indignation this new American project which directly threatens the security of the Arab countries."

IN IRAQ

The declarations of Mr. Fadel Al Jamali, the Prime Minister of Iraq, in favour of a US-Pakistan-Turkey Pact, have met with protests from all sides. The National Democratic Party has presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister which says: "The imperialist States want to encircle Iraq by the formation of a military pact between Turkey and Pakistan, in order to involve Irak in this pact which will lead to the destruction of the Arab Front and to the realisation of a 'Joint Defence Plan.'

"The Iraqi people will persist in their strong opposition to the Joint Defence Plan under whatever guise."

The Istiqlal Party (Independent) presented another memorandum which asserted that "The Iraqi people oppose all the Iraqi Government's projects just as they opposed the Portsmouth Treaty."

The All-Burma Peace Congress (the Burmese Peace Committee) has announced that over 2,000,000 Burmese people have signed the petition for negotiations and a Five-Power Pact since last May.

A resolution on the easing of world tension was also passed by Burmese women at a meeting in Rangoon on March 8th in celebration of International Women's Day.

A National Conference For Easing International Tension will be held in New Delhi on May 8th and 9th

Several prominent Indians have just taken the initiative in calling a "National Conference For Easing International Tension."

Among the first signatories to the appeal, which was issued in Delhi, were 20 Congress Members of Parliament.

On March 16th, at a joint meeting of signatories from Delhi and other parts of the country, a preparatory committee was set up. Among its members are 60 Members of provincial Legislative Assemblies and 30 Congress Party religious and professional men.

The National Conference will be held on May 9th in New Delhi.

Japanese Peace Conference To Be Held in April

Opposition is growing in many quarters to the Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement which was signed with the United States on March 8th, in Tokyo. It provides for the establishment of the "American Military Advisory Group", an overall command to supervise and control Japan's rearmament. Expenses for the group will be defrayed by Japan.

Japan's biggest newspaper, the Conservative "Asahi Shimbun," *wrote on March 8th that the agreement should never have been signed, for it definitely obliges Japan to rearm and this violates Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. The Liberal newspaper,* "Yomiuri Shimbun," *the third biggest in the country, also expresses anxiety over the danger of the US Military Advisory Group interfering in Japan's internal affairs.*

Mr. Totaro Asanuma, *General Secretary of the Right-wing Socialist Party, and* Mr. Hiroo Wada, *General Secretary of the Left-wing Socialist Party, have affirmed their parties' opposition to rearmament.*

The Fourth National Conference of the Labour-Farmer Party of Japan, held in Tokyo on March 8th-10th, drew up a programme of struggle against the Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement.

Even Japanese business circles, which had hoped that the agreement would avert the prospect of an economic crisis, are sceptical. For example, Mr. Aichiro Fujiyama, *President of Japan's Chamber of Commerce, warned that "financial circles should not place too much expectation on the pact"; while* Mr. Kogoro Uemura, *Vice-President of the Federation of Economic Organisations, made a similar statement.*

Meanwhile, the National Peace Committee is organising a campaign against rearmament and the attempts to revise the "Peace Constitution." It also decided to hold forums and signature campaigns to support negotiation between the Five Big Powers, in conjunction with the Japan-China Friendship Association, the Japanese Peace Liaison Committee and the Federation of Japanese Women's Organisations.

A National Peace Congress will be held at the end of April.

THE CONGRESS OF BRAZILIAN INTELLECTUALS

The first National Congress of Brazilian Intellectuals, which was mainly concerned with ways of preserving the national character of Brazilian culture, was held last February 14th-21st in Goiana. Important delegations were present from Chile, the Argentine, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Here is the agenda:

I. Preservation and development of Brazilian culture;

II. Cultural relations with all nations;

III. The ethical and professional problems of intellectuals.

Among the many intellectuals who participated were: **Alex Viany,** writer; **Alvaro Doria,** Professor at the University of Rio; **Arnaldo Estrela,** Professor of Music at the University of Rio; **Carlos Sussekind,** writer and jurist; **Cleto Seabra Veloso,** journalist; **Ennio Silveira,** publisher; **Jefferson d'Avila,** painter; **Paulina d'Ambrosio,** musician; **José Ortiz Monteiro,** Vice-President of the Sao Paulo Cinematographic Association; **Oduvaldo Viana,** playwright; **Caio Libanio de Noronha Soares,** member of the Faculty of Medicine, President of Minas Geraes Medical Association; **Edgard Godoy da Mata Machado,** Professor at the Catholic University of Minas; and a number of Members of Parliament.

Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet, **Baltazar Castro,** President of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, the Brazilian writer, **Jorge Amado** and **Gabriel d'Arboussier,** member of the World Council of Peace from French West Africa, also took part in the Congress proceedings.

Jorge Amado showed how it was possible to unite writers of all tendencies in defence of Brazilian culture. "Attempts to divide the intellectuals are in vain," he declared. "They realised that those who opposed, intrigued against and slandered the Congress were in fact opposing our national culture and our national independence."

Among those who took part in the discussions were **Professor Alberto Americano,** Doctor of Law; **Henrique Fialho,** a judge and **the Reverend Publio Calado,** a Catholic priest who spoke very strongly against all attempts at eliminating national characteristics from Brazilian culture.

The resolution adopted by the Congress declared:

"We live in a world rent by longstanding and distressing international tensions which cause the people much harm, especially our people who are in so much need of the benefits of culture in order to attain real, national independence.

"While trying to establish and expand cultural relations, we are working to bring about an atmosphere of confidence and friendship between the peoples.

"We maintain that the Brazilian people have a characteristically national and vigorous culture, which is capable of being immeasurably developed. This culture must be preserved from the corrupt influences which threaten it.

"We maintain that cultural relations between the peoples, in addition to contributing to the establishment of friendly relations between all countries, are one of the fundamental factors for enriching Brazilian culture."

Tour by Soviet musicians

The Soviet violinist, Igor Bezrodny, and the pianist, Evgeni Malinin, and their accompanist, V. Yampolski, have just completed a concert tour in Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

Describing the tour, Mr. Bezrodny said:

"At the very first Press Conference we gave in The Hague on December 26th, a score of Dutch pressmen were present, and after a brief announcement by our manager, they showered us with so many questions that it took more than two hours to answer them. The newspapermen asked us about everything, from musical education in the Soviet Union and the material conditions of the students and teachers to repertoires and individual concert performers...

"The January 6th issue of the Catholic *Nieuwe Haagsche Courant* published an editorial entitled 'Music as a Bridge'. It pointed out that our concerts were a contribution to cultural *rapprochement* and would promote mutual understanding between Holland and the USSR...

"The desirability of developing cultural intercourse and exchanging artists and musical literature was stressed time and time again. The experience of our own concert tour showed how much visits by Soviet artists can do to promote friendship."

In the Art Galleries of PRAGUE

The art of several countries is finding a common meeting ground in the Czechoslovak capital.

The canvases of the Italian painter and champion of Peace, Renato Guttuso, depicting the poverty of the starving, landless Italian peasantry and the slave conditions of the Sicilian sulphur miners, are to be seen alongside the works of other young Italian artists.

Young progressive Brazilian artists are also inspired by the conditions of life of their people and their struggle for Peace. "Sleeping Under The Stars" (reproduced below) *by Renina Katz, winner of the Gold Medal of the State of São Paulo, reveals one aspect of the poverty of the Brazilian peasants.*

"Bumba meu boi" (above) *by Carlos Scliar, winner of several medals and national prizes, depicts a popular fête-day dance of African origin.*

The creations of contemporary Soviet art express the peaceful life of the people, the joy of constructive work and their staunch efforts in defence of Peace. This is exemplified by the series of sculptures entitled "The Struggle for Peace" executed by a team of artists under the direction of G. Manizer, on show in Prague.

Cultural Relations

CINEMA

Recently, discussions took place in Prague between Czech and French film experts, including M. Jacques Flaud, Director General of the National Centre of the French film industry.

As a result, there will be a growing exchange of films between France and Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia will be represented at the Cannes Film Festival by a Slovak film, "The Comedians", and some "shorts," while a selection of French films will be sent this year to the Film Festival at Karlovy Vary.

THEATRE

Soviet Union

On April 7th in Moscow, the Comédie Française will present the first of 20 performances to be staged there and in Leningrad. The repertoire includes "Tartuffe," "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" and "Poil de Carotte."

A matinée for theatrical workers has been planned at which French and Soviet actors will interpret, in turn, scenes from Molière's plays.

In an interview, M. Pierre de Rigoult, Director of the Comédie Française, had this to say:

"There have been no French artists in the USSR since 1913. That testifies to the importance of our visit. It is only the first of further cultural exchanges between our two countries; already various exhibitions have been planned—tapestries, paintings of the Great Masters, and so on. But it is a great honour for us to be the first.

"We hope that cultural relations between France and the USSR will be developed."

Uruguay

An artistic group called "El Retablillo Español," consisting of Spaniards resident in Uruguay, has just been formed. The group plans to popularise Spanish and world drama. One of the members of the Executive Committee of this experimental theatre is Señor José Bergamin, member of the World Council of Peace.

MUSIC

Italy

The "Smetana Quartet," a chamber music ensemble of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, has just made a concert tour in Italy—visiting Rome, Turin, Milan and Genoa. They gave performances of little-known works by Czech composers.

France

José Siquiera, Professor at the National School of Music in Brazil, is in Paris where he will give three lectures at the Conservatoire and at the Sorbonne and conduct a French orchestra.

He will stay for several months in Paris, before making a concert tour of Britain, Italy and other countries.

Soviet musicians, amongst whom are the violinist, Nelly Shkolnikova, and the pianist, Evgeni Malinin, are giving recitals in France.

EXHIBITIONS

Amsterdam

The International Exhibition organised in Amsterdam from February 27th to March 13th by the Artists For Peace Committee has displayed works of the French artists Léger, Lurçat, Picart le Doux and important collections sent by artists' committees and Peace Committees in the Argentine, China, Britain (particularly works by Paul Hogarth), Austria, Finland, Italy (including works by Mucchi) and Poland (including works by Kulisiemicz).

The Artists For Peace Committee organised a competition for works depicting the Dutch people's desire for Peace. The first prize has just been awarded to Jeanne Bièruma-Oosting for her drawings "Concentration Camp," "Execution" and "Dove of Peace."

Moscow

The All-India Fine Arts Society presented in Moscow an exhibition of contemporary Indian art consisting of valuable original sculptures, works of graphic art and reproductions of details of Indian architecture.

Thousands of visitors admired the miniatures, the ivory carvings as delicate as lace, the needlework and the old tapestries. There were also coloured photographs of the frescoes in the Ajanta caves and ancient carvings.

A delegation of artists led by Dr. Barada Ukil accompanied the exhibition to the Soviet Union.

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Guatemala

Cultural competitions for young artists from several Latin American countries are in preparation for the first Central American and Caribbean Youth Festival. Sponsored by 17 of the most important youth organisations in Guatemala, this Festival will take place next October. The theme will be "No foreign interference; defend Peace, culture and sport!"

Germany

The German Peace Council has decided to award a German Peace Medal for the best work in literature, journalism and the sciences, also in production and sport, serving the cause of international understanding and the maintenance of Peace.

Canada

The "Bulletin of the Arts and Sciences," which has recently begun publication, gives in documentary form information on the cultural activities of the Canadian and World Peace Movement. It draws the attention of Canadians to the importance of cultural relations for understanding between the peoples.

Sweden

The Royal Swedish Library has been presented with a collection of 1,000 volumes of literary and scientific works by the Soviet ambassador.

Afghanistan

A delegation of Afghan doctors and cultural representatives have just paid a visit to the Soviet Union. On their return, they were received at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. Ali Mohammed, Vice Premier of Afghanistan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs were also at the reception.

The Great Anniversaries

The Great Cultural Anniversaries were celebrated in Toronto at the same time as the Canadian National Peace Congress. A very successful meeting was attended by 500 people from all parts of the Dominion.

❋

A memorial meeting in honour of the anniversary of Henry Fielding was held on March 18th at the Czechoslovak Writers' Club in Prague. Professor Zdeněk Vančura, Dean of the Faculty of Philology of Charles University, gave a description of the life and works of the father of the English novel. Students from the Academy of Arts then read excerpts from Fielding's works.

The World Council of Peace was represented by Mr. Vincent Duncan Jones (Britain).

❋

"L'Institut de Radiodiffusion Belge" will broadcast a concert devoted to the works of Dvořák, while the "Concerts de Midi" of Brussels has planned a programme of his works for November.

Around the World

Italy

A group of jurists in Rome organised a debate on the treaty setting up EDC, on March 13th and 14th, at the Cultural Circle in Rome.

In the words of the invitation, the aim of this discussion was to see to it that "the decision to be taken with regard to EDC conforms to the interests of the country."

Among the people who took part in the discussion were: Dr. Mario Berutti, Assistant Procurator General at the Turin Court of Appeal; Giuseppe Branca, Professor at the University of Bologna; Widar Cessarini Sforza, Professor at Rome University; Francesco De Martino, Deputy and Professor at the University of Naples; Arturo Carlo Jemolo, lawyer, Professor at Rome University; Giuseppe Nitti, Deputy and barrister and Eduardo Volterra, Professor at Rome University.

A resolution unanimously adopted at the end of the discussion called upon all jurists to explain to wide sections of the people how EDC threatens Italy's independence.

Belgium

In a memorandum presented to the Senate at the time of the debate on the ratification of EDC, the Belgian Union for Peace gave details of the latest results of the opinion-polls. These were evidence of the hostility to German rearmament.

Out of 77,472 people consulted, 53,460, that is 68,8 per cent, condemned EDC; 2,310 (or 3.2 per cent) approved of it and 28 per cent had no opinion.

❋

Forty Senators (one Liberal, 25 Socialists, 11 Social-Christians and three Communists) voted against the Treaty of Paris which was approved by 125 votes.

Nevertheless, the Treaty has been declared anti-constitutional by the Council of State and its promulgation depends in the last resort upon a revision of the Constitution. It is up to the new Parliament, after the elections of April 11th, to decide by a new vote on the expediency of such a revision.

Canada

John Burns, President of the British Fire Brigades' Union, spoke at 54 meetings during a flying tour of Canada recently.

Everywhere he went he stressed the danger of the Hydrogen bomb. "A single H-bomb," he said, "would exceed in destruction the combined weight of everything dropped on Britain by Hitler from beginning to end of World War II."

In Regina, Saskatchewan, at a meeting which he addressed, the Deputy Minister of Labour brought greetings on behalf of the Minister of Labour of the province.

Holland

The Government has declared its intention not to commemorate National Day (May 5th, anniversary of the Liberation of Holland from the Nazi yoke).

But the Mayor of Haarlem has stated that the celebration of May 5th should remain a living tradition, and he has taken steps to give it an official character. Former resistance organisations in Amsterdam have set up a committee to celebrate May 5th. In consists of representatives of the Federal Council, the Ecclesiastical Resistance (Kerkelijk Verzet), the "B.S." (Burgher Forces) and the students' and artists' resistance network.

Indonesia

Political circles in Djakarta have expressed satisfaction that the People's Republic of China will be taking part in the Geneva Conference. In a statement published by the Antara News Agency, Mr. Tambunan, Vice-President of the Parliament, also emphasised the necessity of admitting the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

Switzerland

In the canton of Vaud, alone, 6,713 signatures have been collected to a Peace Movement petition against German rearmament.

At Renens, a group of young people collected 106 signatures in one hour.

Austria

A message of the Central Committee of the Austrian Socialist Youth calls upon all Austrian organisations of young Socialists affected by EDC to make a joint demonstration of their opposition to the project.

The message asks all young Socialists to oppose all military pacts.

Czechoslovakia

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Textile and Clothing Workers' Trade Unions, which met recently in Prague, adopted an appeal urging workers in the clothing and textile industries in every country, irrespective of their nationality, political or religious opinions or beliefs, and whatever their trade union loyalty, to wage a staunch struggle against the danger of a new world war.

Norway

A debate on the lengthening of military service took place on March 17th, in the Storting (Parliament). Although the Government was obliged to propose 16 months military service, instead of the 18 demanded by NATO, even this met with lively resistance. The Communist Deputies, several members of the Social Democratic group, the Venstre (Liberal Party), the Christian People's Party and the Peasant Party voted against this project which was, nevertheless, adopted in spite of the growing popular opposition to it.

Young people get together...

Various Norwegian youth organisations —among them the "Knights Templar," "United Nations Youth" and the Norwegian Commitee for the World Festival—have sent a letter to all youth organisations in the Nordic countries proposing the organisation of a Nordic youth meeting in Oslo for next July, under the slogan "Friendship Through Knowledge." Two or three thousand young Scandinavians are expected at this meeting.

❋

Representatives of French and German youth movements have issued an appeal inviting youth delegates from all European countries to attend a conference in Berlin on 24th and 25th of April. The aim of the Conference is to organise joint activity against EDC, for a peaceful settlement of the German problem and the development of friendly relations between all young people.

Among those who signed the appeal are: For the German youth: Stefan Hermlin, writer; Horst Tambach, a leader of the organisation for the West-German unemployed; Ludwig Schenk, member of the Socialist Youth organisation — "Red Falcons." For the French youth: Jacques Vitoux on behalf of the Movement of International Action for Peace (Catholic) and Raymonde Dien from the Union of Young Women of France (U.J.F.F.).

❋

A "Festival of Friendship" for the youth of Central America and the Caribbean will be held this year in Guatemala. The initiative for this was taken by a group of Guatemalan sports and cultural organisations.

"Our Festival," writes the organising committe, "has the noble aim of contributing to the development of national sport and culture, preserving historical values, drawing closer the bonds of friendship, mustering our energies for the struggle for our rights and proclaiming our love of life, free from fear and violence."

"You won't cure an habitual drunk by giving him liquor..."

Speaking to the "Committee Against German Rearmament" in the commune of Evere, M. Ernest Demuyter, a Brussels Liberal Deputy and opponent of EDC, said:

"You won't cure an habitual drunk by giving him liquor; and, in my opinion, to give fighter aircraft and other modern weapons to former German soldiers is extremely dangerous.

"We have changed the idea of the function that toys should perform by cutting down the number of lead soldiers. It would be a good thing if we did as much with flesh and blood soldiers."

WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

SECRETARIAT

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE
cr.

Prague, April 13th, 1954.

Dr. W.E.B. DU BOIS
(U.S.A.)

Dear Friend,

As you no doubt already know from the letter and resolutions we sent you from Vienna on March 30th, after the meeting of the Bureau of the World Council, the Bureau has decided to convene an Extraordinary Session of the World Council in Berlin at the end of May.

After consultation with the President, Professor Joliot-Curie it has been decided to hold this session from May 23rd-28th.

After a thorough examination of the international situation, the Bureau pointed out in its General Resolution the importance of such a meeting at the present time.

As at preceding sessions the World Council itself will decide on the agenda for the session. However, the Bureau's General Resolution deals with the questions, which because of their importance, will probably be discussed by the Council.

We realise it may be difficult for you to be present at this meeting. Nevertheless, we should be glad to have your point of view on the problems which are troubling the world at the present time, the increasing menace of the hydrogen bomb, the rearmament of Germany and Japan and the formation of military pacts which are undermining the security and independence of peoples.

In case you have not already received them you will find enclosed the texts adopted by the Bureau at its meeting.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace

Jean LAFFITTE
General Secretary